

Advanced English: Madness in Literature
Maybeck High School
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SYLLABUS

Madness, however you define it, has been a preoccupation of literature and of writing about literature since classical times. Madness and rumors of madness have surrounded the creative process and have made up part of the subject matter of hundreds of literary texts. We will study the history of Madness through time and we will also examine a wide variety of literary texts in which portray madness either in the characters, in the narrator, or in the narrative.

We will read a wide variety of literary forms, largely centering on the period of literary modernism in the early 20th century, but moving forward into the post modern as well as taking a glimpse at a number of proto-modernist works. We will study poetry as well as prose, and a major focus of the class will be to re-engage in our study of the methods of writing about literature and improving our writing skills in general: to that end we will practice annotation, note-taking and essay writing as well as revision and oral presentation of findings.

Writing Component:

Students will produce three pieces of written work and an oral presentation on their research. Students will also be assessed on their participation in the course, including discussion in class, commitment to the material, note-taking and general attitude.

Required Readings:

- Porter, Roy. *Madness: A Brief History*
- Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*
- Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland*
- Eliot, T.S. *The Wasteland*
- Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs. Dalloway*
- Nabokov, Vladimir. *Pale Fire*
- Handouts and photocopies

Final Grade components:

- 25%: In-class participation and discussion of assigned readings.
- 25%: quizzes, tests, in-class writing, written homework.
- 25%: longer written assignments consisting of one ten-page paper and two five-page.
- 25%: final exam.